

Message Text

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ACTION FBO-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ISO-00 /007 W

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P 030300Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7393

UNCLAS KABUL 2001

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AFSP-ABLD-AF

SUBJECT: EMBASSY RESIDENCE KABUL (F&F)

FOR FBO AND NEA/EX

REF: A) KABUL 1726; B) STATE 062232

1. THIS MESSAGE DEALS EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE DRAPERIES, RUGS
AND UPHOLSTERY AT THE ER KABUL.

2. DUE TO CHANGES IN INVENTORY PROCEDURES AND RECORDS
RETIREMENT PROGRAMS WE CANNOT EXACTLY IDENTIFY WHEN WE ACQUIRED
ALL OF THE DRAPERIES, RUGS AND UPHOLSTERY FOR THE FURNITURE
IN THE ER. NOR IBN WE ASCERTAIN EXACTLY WHEN ITEMS WERE REPLACED
OR RECOVERED. THE POINT IS THAT MOST OF ALL THREE ITEMS ARE
OLD, WORN, DIRTY, EVEN THREADBARE. MOST OF THE DRAPERIES HAVE
BEEN HANGING AT LEAST SINCE LATE 1967 (PERSONAL RECOLLECTION
OF LOCAL EMPLOYEE) AND HAVE HAD TO BE REPAIRED NUMEROUS
TIMES. SOMETHING HANGING THAT LONG IN THE DRY, DUSTY CLIMATE OF
KABUL IN ROOMS HEATED BY INDIVIDUAL KEROSENE HEATERS ARE
MANIFESTLY WORN OUT AND NEED TO BE REPLACED. (INCIDENTALLY SOME
OF THE MATERIALS WERE USAID SURPLUS ITEMS).

3. THEN
UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE NEEDS RE-UPHOLSTERING AND ALL OF
THE CARPETS IN THE BACK OF THE HOUSE AND THE GULKHANA ETD HALF
OF THE REMAINING CARPETS ARE WORN OUT.

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4. UPON ADVICE FROM POST BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON

AMBASSADOR AND MRS. ELIOT DISCUSSED THESE MATTERS WITH FBO (WARLOW) AND NEA/EX (HUNT). THEY WERE ADVISED BY FBO AND NEA AS REPORTED IN REF A TO PLAN A VISIT TO INDIA TO CHOOSE NEW DRAPERIES AND UPHOLSTERY MATERIALS, BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES AND DELAYS IN PURCHASING SUCH ITEMS FROM THE USA THROUGH FBO. THEY DID NOT DISCUSS RUGS AND CARPETING BECAUSE THE ADMIN OFFICER IN HIS LETTER DID NOT DZSLL ON THOSE ITEMS SINCE AMBASSADOR NEUMANN HAD PERSONALLY COVERED THE THREADBARE RUGS WITH RICH PERSIAN CARPETS AND THE WEAR AND TEAR ON USG FURNISHED FLOOR COVERINGS BELOW WAS NOT EVIDENT AS WAS THE FURNITURE AND DRAPERIDU. OUR LOCAL EMPLOYEE, AGAIN, THINKS THE CARPETS IN QUESTION WERE ACQUIRED DURING AMBASSADOR BYROADE'S (3/59-1/62) OR AMBASSADOR STEEVES (3/62-6/66) TENURES.

5. HAVING BEEN SO ADVISED BY THE DEPARTMENT MRS. ELIOT QS BEEN CAREFULLY PLANNING A TRIP TO DELHI. FOR THE LAST FOUR MONTHS THE AMBASSADOR AND SHE HAVE CAREFULLY EXAMINED AND MEASURED WHAT NEEDS TO BE REPLACED. THEY HAVE WRITTEN TO SCORES OF VENDORS IN THCSUB-CONTINENT AND HAVE COMPARED SAMPLES FROM INDIA DND PAKISTAN. THEY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR THE INDIAN MATERIALS ARE BETTER AND THE ADMIN AND GSO OFFICERS AGREE.

6. BASED UPON THEIR CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON AND WITH ADMIN OFFICER HERE (WHO DRAFTED REF A) MRS. ELIOT HAS DRAWN UP A SHOPPING LIST OF ITEMS NEEDED FROM INDIA. SHE PLANS TO LEAVE HERE ON APRIL 15 FOR DELHI. HER SCHEDULE FOR THE REST OF THE FY IS BLOCKED OUT AND SHE CANNOT POSTPONE NOR RE-SCHEDULE HER PLANNED VISIT TO INDIA. SHE HAS SPENT FOUR MONTHS OF HER BUSY SCHEDULE WORKING WITH ADMIN ON THIS MATTER AND NOW, WE FIND, WE DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO COVER COSTS FOR HUMBLE PURCHASING.

7. IN HIS TWENTY-THREE YEARS IN FOREIGN SERVICE ADMIN OFFICER HAS NEVER EXPERIENCED SUGGESTION THAT DRAPERIES, CARPETS AND UPHOLSTERY ARE NOT, REPEAT NOT, RECURRING REQUIREMENTS. WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR A MAJOR OR EVEN MINOR IMPROVEMENT IN ER. WE ARE ASKING FOR A REPLACEMENT OF WORN OUT, THREADBARE MATERIALS AND CARPETS AND AS FBO'S RECORDS SHOULD REFLECT WE'VE GOT A BIG HOUSE WITH MASSIVE WINDOW SQUARE FOOTAGE AND AN EQUALLY LARGE SQUARE FOOTAGE OF FLOORING. (PART OF THE CARPETING CAN BE, AFTER UNCLASSIFIED

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CUTTING AND SEWING, SALVAGED FOR OTHER USG OWNED HOUSING AND OFFICE BUILDING FLOORS.)

8. IN OUR BUDGET WE GROSSLY UNDERESTIMATED CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY MATERIAL AND DRAPERIEU REPLACEMENT ISSTS. WE HAVE TO FURNISH MRS. ELIOT WITH A FIRM DOLLAR AMOUNT SHE CAN SPEND IN INDIA. SINCE DEPT HAS ALLOTTED ONLY \$9500 OF OVER \$49,000 BUDGETED WE

REQUEST AN ADDITIONAL \$15,000 BE TELEGRAPHICALLY ALLOCATED
BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS FRIDAY, APRIL 5.

9. WE WILL BE CORRESPONDING WITH JOHN RIEGER IN DELHI
CONCERNING PROCUREMENT DETAILS ANBGCOSTS.

10. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON FURNITURE FOR GULKHANA WHICH IS NOW FURNISHED
WITH RATTY TATTAN WHXGCH MUST BE REPLACED. JUSTIFICATION OF
NON-RECURRING M&R ITEMS CONCERNING RESIDENCE IN PROCESS AND WILL
BE FORWARDED ASAP.
ELIOT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KABUL02001
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740074-0110
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740471/aaaacnen.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION FBO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) KABUL 1726; B) STATE 062232
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <16 DEC 2002 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBASSY RESIDENCE KABUL (F&F) FOR FBO AND NEA/EX
TAGS: AFSP, ABLD, AF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005